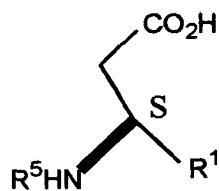


Amendment to the Claims:

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

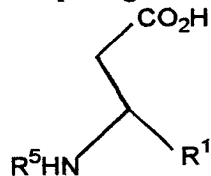
Claim 26 (original)A process for preparing a compound of formula V



V

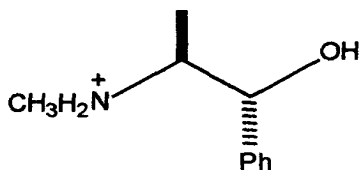
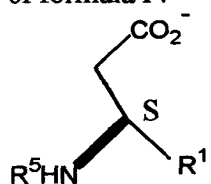
wherein R^1 is aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl or substituted heteroaryl and R^5 is N-t-butoxycarbonyl

comprising reacting a compound of formula III



III

with at least 0.5 equivalents of (1R,2S)-(-)-ephedrine, in alkyl acetate solvent, to form a salt of formula IV



IV

wherein Ph is phenyl,

reacting the salt of formula IV with an inorganic base, in water, to form a carboxylate salt of the compound of formula V, acidifying the carboxylate salt of the compound of formula V with an acid of pK_a less than or equal to three, to a pH of between about 3.5 and about 6.5.